The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor-editorial, legislative, and political lines, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918. Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1919, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WHOLE NO. 1988 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1949 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 39, NO. 20

Building Trades Adopt New Program Of Arbitrating Jurisdictional Cases

Cleveland.—The Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, representing 2,000,000 organized construction workers, decided to set up new arbitration machinery to settle jurisdictional disputes in the building industry in which employers would have no direct representation.

The old arbitration system was established after passage of the Taft-Hartley law and was specifically designed to meet the National Labor Relations Board's objections to interviewing in disputes between unions over assignment of work.

Under that setup controversies that could not be settled by direct negotiation were disposed of by a board consisting of three representatives of the employers, 2 representatives of the unions and an impartial chairman, Prof. John T. Dunlop of Harvard University.

At a meeting here the heads of all AFL building unions decided to send formal 30-day notices to the Associated General Contractors, the national organization representing employers, that the unions would refuse to exclude the contractors from any further part in the decision of jurisdictional controversies. In place of the old system, the AFL leaders voted to have disputes submitted to a new board consisting of one representative of each of the competing unions and an impartial chairman.

Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building Trades Department, said Prof. Dunlop would be asked to continue as impartial chairman under the new arrangement.

In explaining the decision to eliminate employer representation, Mr. Gray asserted that contractors had been a final decision by the federation on whether it wished to continue the old arbitration system. The final decision had been delayed in the hope that Congress would repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and thus modify the present law's provisions for NLRB intervention in jurisdictional disputes.

He said that employers had been free to press complaints that unions could not agree on jurisdiction and to make their own work assignments while waiting for a final decision to be rendered.

The new arbitration accord between the contractors and the AFL expired on December 31 but it has been extended by mutual agreement pending a final decision by the federation on whether it wished to continue the old arbitration system. The final decision had been delayed in the hope that Congress would repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and thus modify the present law's provisions for NLRB intervention in jurisdictional disputes.

NLRB Overrules Denham; Stops Action in Local Cases

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board sharply overruled General Counsel Robert N. Denham in dismissing claim that all business, even those local in nature, are subject to the board's jurisdiction.

The unanimous opinion, written by Chairman Paul M. Herzog, said the board must determine for itself in each case whether an employer's business is essentially of a local nature and an interruption of work would have only a minor effect on commerce.

Mr. Denham, whose office acts independently under the law, had argued that the act required the board to process cases involving employers, no matter how small the business, if he once issued a complaint in the case.

The board, which has been feuding with Mr. Denham, conceded that he was the final authority on the question of complaints, but added:

"After a complaint is issued and a hearing has been held the final authority of the general counsel is exhausted and the case is then in the hands of the board. Nothing in the act or its legislative history indicates that Congress concluded that only the general counsel had the wisdom to determine what would or would not effectuate the statutory policy."

The ruling said the law was "clear" on Mr. Denham's sole right to issue complaints and was "equally clear that the general counsel's judgment was not to control the board's decision on the merits of the proceeding."

"Separation of functions was evidently intended to bar judges from being prosecutors," it said. "Surely Congress was not thinking by the same provisions to convert prosecutors into judges."

Mr. Denham said the decision "represents a substantial divergence of opinion between us." He said he would not comment further on his mind whether to appeal to the courts. "I have not changed my opinion that the act affects all interstate commerce," he said.

The decision was handed down in dismissing charges of unfair labor practices against the Peralta Studio, of Tucson, Ariz., and the Retail Clerks' International Association. American Federation of Labor affiliate, in San Pedro, Calif.

ILGWU Opens Boston Health Clinic

Boston, Mass.—A $585,000 health center to provide free diagnostic care for 15,000 workers in Boston and eastern Massachusetts was opened by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL. At a banquet marking the event, David Dubinsky, president of ILGWU, pointed out that the center was the ninth of its kind sponsored by the union.

"The employers and the community as a whole," he said, "have come to realize the tremendous obligation industry owes to the workers who labor in its shops and mills. The health of those workers is the keystone to their valuable single resource contributing to the health of this nation."

The clinic was financed by a 2 per cent payroll levy on employers. The union locals taxed themselves to raise $100,000 for the initial equipment.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, who visited the center, reiterated his belief in the "essential wisdom" that the Taft-Hartley law would be improved by the Congress and criticized by legislation based on the Kaiser plan. He also predicted that Congress would grant "a very substantial increase" in the minimum wage, probably to 75 cents an hour.

Mr. Dubinsky, joining the Labor Secretary in the same conference, charged that the murder of William Edward Hill, 17-year-old boy in New York, on May 9 was inspired by "one of the vilest forms of racism" and New York nonunion jobbers who undersell their unionized competitors.

TAFT-HARTLEY ACT ASSAILED AT VIRGINIA STATE CONCLAVE

Richmond, Va.—The Taft-Hartley Act is "fundamentally dishonest" and "unfair," a Virginia labor leader told delegates to the Virginia Federation of Labor's first convention here.

He said "we passed to weaken and eventually destroy the unions," and Steve Carter, president of the West Virginia Federation of Labor, applauded the meeting.

Carter quoted the way in what probably will be the principal labor issue of the legislature, which landed by approximately 475 representatives of AFL unions throughout Virginia.

Carter asserted that supporters of the labor act "don't like the idea of strong unions that get out the vote for their friends."

PETER BENARD, 69, IS DEAD; WAS VICE PRES. CONN. FED.

Bridgeport, Conn.—Peter Benard, 69, vice president of the Connecticut Federation of Labor and for many years president of the Bridgeport Central Labor Union, both affiliates of the American Federation of Labor, died here May 15 at his home, 1359 Main Street.

Before becoming a labor union official, Mr. Benard had been a steeplejack, deep-sea diver, stonecutter, hoisting engineer and motion picture projector operator. He organized Local 277 of the Motion Picture Operators Union in 1912.

In 1933 Mr. Benard became president of the Bridgeport union and in 1945 he was elected vice president of the state organization. He was an Elk and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Surviving are 2 sons,

Chicago Unions Winning Long Battle For Shorter Week in Local Industry

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL Weekly News Service

Chicago.—An AFL local union of 500 employees of tobacco wholesalers is the latest to win the five-day week in the general movement of organized labor to clean up in localized industries the practices forbidden to interstate industry by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Local 711, Tobacco & Cigaret Salesmen, Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers, a member of the teamsters' international, was granted a five-day, 44-hour week with the same take-home pay formerly given for a six-day, 48-hour week.

Daniel J. Colucio, secretary of the union, said the Chicago Association of Tobacco Distributors, has agreed to increase wages from $1.28 to $1.441 for drivers and from 97 cents to $1.091 for inside workers and truck helpers, with time and a half after 40 hours.

At the convention of the Laundry Workers International Union, which ended in Chicago Sam J. Byers, of Indianapolis, president of the international, stressed the importance of shorter hours and welfare measures, although low wages also are a serious problem in the laundry industry.

At the convention of the huge Hotel & Restaurant Employes Union & Bartenders' International League, also held in Chicago, President Hugo Ernst credited the nonreporting railroad unions for breaking down some ancient arguments against the six day and seven-day week.

In the Middle West, a large percentage of organized hotel and restaurant workers already are covered by contracts providing for time and a half for over 40 hours, frequent exempt from the federal wage and hour law.

Cincinnati recently achieved a universal 5-day week. Minneapolis has a 40-hour week for all crafts to be guarantees serving liquor.

At the moment the trend in collective bargaining in the Middle West is toward welfare, health, pension and security benefits, rather than wages. The Milk Drivers and Dairy Workers Union in Chicago are pressing for improved pensions. So is the Chicago street car men's local which expects an arbitrators decision any minute now in its dispute with the Chicago Transit Authority.

Samuel Lederman, general manager of Local 241, Chemical Workers Union, mentioned cultural and recreational benefits as a bargaining matter as delegates of the locals representing 15,000 workers in Illinois gathered for an annual conference.

"Programs for the intellectual and emotional development of workers are equally as important as those concerned with ordinary health needs," said Lederman. "Employers have a responsibility in their financing, since they will benefit from the better living."

Musical entertainment usually is provided at meetings of Lederman's locals as at the regular monthly meeting of the big AFL electrical workers' union in Chicago.

Hot Fight on Insurance Firms Waged By Massachusetts Federation of Labor

Boston.—"Stop profits from human misery and death!" That's the battle cry of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor in an annual struggle being waged here against insurance firms.

Organized labor is fighting for legislation to establish an exclusive state fund to handle payments under the state workmen's compensation law. At present, private insurance companies collect the premiums from employers and pay out the benefits to victims of industrial accidents.

The insurance companies have established a united front against the proposal and have spent 40 per cent of the money they collect to advertise such worthy causes as barriers in profits on top of that. On the other hand, in Ohio and 6 other states which have exclusive state funds, overhead costs average only 10 percent, and the systems are not operated for profit.

"The wolf cry of socialism against our proposal is pure bunk," the labor organization asserted. "It is incredible that the insurance companies from the misery and death of injured workers.

LABOR INSTITUTE TO OPEN JUNE 13 AT RUTGERS U.

New Brunswick, N. J.—Labor's responsibility in building a democratic world will be considered by members of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor at a labor education institute convening on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University June 13 through 16, it was announced.

Among the outstanding subjects on the 4-day program are: Guiding Ourselves Toward Democracy, Can We Achieve World Recovery, Using Atomic Energy Constructively, Developing a Sound Tax Program, Labor Legislation in the 81st Congress, A National Health Insurance Plan, New Jersey Attacks the Housing Problem, and Labor in the Community.

UN ASSEMBLY APPROVES FREE LABOR RESOLUTION

New York City.—The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on the 59 member states to agree to a convention guaranteeing freedom of association and the right of labor to organize.

By a vote of 24 to 6, with 14 abstentions, the assembly adopted a resolution expressing its "earnest hope" that member governments would take prompt action for early ratification of the convention on freedom of association and protection of the right to organize, adopted by the International Labor Organization conference at San Francisco last summer.

The assembly voted also to ask the economic and security council to study the problem of slavery at its next session.

Council Approves AFL Entry Into Free World Labor Body

Depression Scares Flouted By AFL Executive Council

Cleveland.—Confidence that the United States is not headed for a depression was expressed by the AFL Executive Council in session here.

In a formal statement, the council took an optimistic view of the nation's economic prospects and voiced opposition to the use of "recession propaganda as an argument to curtail government spending" especially in the fields of housing, education and health.

The council made no specific reference to the subject of wage increases at this time, but it emphasized that general prosperity could be maintained only as long "as the purchasing power of American workers and the public as a whole remains high."

AFL President William Green told a press conference after the council session that there was no merit to arguments that unions should forego demands for higher wages now.

"Each international union is clothed with authority to decide its own wage policies," he declared. "A number of unions have asked us to insist on wage increases. We will support our unions in their wage policies."

The text of the council statement on economic conditions follow:

"Certain economic spokesmen have proclaimed doom are already heralding a new depression. The Executive Council does not share their view.

"The Executive Council sees no immediate evidence in the nation of a depression, nor any indication of a depression befalling America in the near future.

"On the contrary, all signs point to a continued period of high production, substantial employment and prosperity.

"The few instances in prices that have taken place are a healthy sign, rather than a danger signal. As production catches up with demand it is natural and normal that prices should drop off from exaggerated, scarcity peaks. If the inflation spiral were to continue unchecked, the nation would be much more vulnerable to the now familiar recession.

"It is a sad spectacle to see some individuals already complaining of a 'recession' because the post-war era of automatic profits has ended and industry is being compelled to meet the test of a competitive market.

"Another group of reactionaries is using recession propaganda as an argument to curtail government spending—necessary spending in the fields of housing, education and health. Even if their assumption were true and a recession on the way, the wisest thing to do would be for the government to step up spending for constructive and worthy projects in order to take up any industrial slack.

"We, the labor movement, stand for a full employment economy. The commitments which our government has made for European recovery and national defense call for a vast and continuing demand for the products of American farms and factories for years to come.

"As long as the purchasing power of American workers and the public as a whole remains high, consumption will keep pace with production and prosperous conditions will continue.

MacGowan is Reelected President Of Boilermakers Union at Convention

Montreal.—Concluding an unusually harmonious convention, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers elected Charles J. MacGowan to a stirring demonstration of loyalty.

In his closing address, Mr. MacGowan called upon all the delegates to work for the election of labor's friends in the 1950 congressional campaign to assure a repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the passage of enactment of legislation which will benefit labor and the general welfare of the people.

The convention clarified and codified the union's constitution and bylaws and voted to streamline its organizational machinery.

After describing the successful efforts to defeat the Wood bill in the House of Representatives and defeating the failure of Congress to make more headway at this session on repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, Mr. MacGowan emphasized that while labor is strong enough to defeat a majority in the House of Representatives from south of the Mason-Dixon line, it is not strong enough to defeat the Senate filibusters that are going to need all the help they can get.

Because of the difficulties encountered by labor's friends in the 81st Congress, it is all the more urged, Mr. MacGowan declared, for the labor union movement to prepare for a real fight at the polls in 1950.

"We did a good job last November," he declared. "But there is still plenty of work to be done in every section of the country, both to defeat our enemies and to protect our friends."

HOME BUILDING SPURTS IN CITIES ALL OVER NATION

Washington, D. C.—Homebuilding activity jumped in 200 cities during April, with 86,000 new permanent dwellings started, the Labor Department Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, reported. That represents a gain of 24,000 units, or 39 percent, over the disappointing March estimate, but is 12,500, or 14 percent, under the corresponding total for April 1948, when homebuilding was running at the highest peak ever recorded on record.

Started in the 1949 January-April total are 12,500 publicly financed dwellings. Contracts awarded in 37 states in April totaled 5,700 units.

Photographic reports from principal cities of the United States show scattered gains in construction activity over the country in the number of new dwelling units authorized for construction by local permits issued during the month. Among the largest increases were Montgomery, Ala., $200,000; Washington, D. C., $1,000,000; Baltimore, Md.; Greensboro, N. C.; East Orange, N. J.; New York, N. Y.; and Seattle, Wash.

FORMER AFL OFFICIAL NAMED TO U. S. POSITION

Washington.—Abraham Al Desser, former director of the Labor-Management Relations (Taft-Hartley) Act Arbitration Association, has been appointed commissioner of labor relations for the National Security Resources Board.

Desser was once supervisor of collective bargaining research at the National Industrial Conference Board and taught courses on contract, negotiations at Rutgers and New York University.

He was also at one time international representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and later carried on similar work for the National Garment of the AFL.

CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT RISES TO ALMOST 2 MILLION

Washington.—Contract construction jobs rose from March to April, reaching 1,965,000, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. This is an increase of 37,000 workers over the revised March estimate, but 5 percent below the number employed in April, 1948.

The estimated value of all new construction put in place also increased from March to April, rising 7 percent to $1,368,000,000. Compared with 1948, expenditures in April are slightly less, the first time since 1946 that the April expenditures for the current month are lower than for the same month in the previous year.

Residential building and privately financed public utility construction rose from March to April, respectively, by 10 percent to $440,000,000 and 7 percent to $293,000,000. But private nonresidential building declined 7 percent to $632,000,000 in $252,000,000. All types of public construction continued the gains begun in March.

AFL TOPS IN NLRB ELECTION BOXSCORE

Washington, D. C.—American Federation of Labor unions won more collective bargaining elections than the Congress of Industrial Organizations in the first quarter of 1949.

The National Labor Relations Board summary for the first 3 months of the year shows the elections as follows: AFL unions 486; CIO unions, 193; unaffiliated, 222; no union, 847.

Valid votes were cast as follows: AFL, 34,688; CIO, 34,401; unaffiliated, 21,621; no union, 28,008.

In 1,395 union shop authorization elections, the results were: AFL, 879; CIO, 182; unaffiliated, 179; no union authorized, 63; indeterminate, 2.

New Impetus Given to Fight Against Reds By AFL Action

Cleveland.—The American Federation of Labor's worldwide offensive against communism received new impetus when the AFL executive Council unanimously approved participation with other labor organizations' in a new world labor body.

The new organization, to be set up in London next month, is intended to link the free trade union movements of all continents in resistance to the aims of the Cominform and the pro-Communist World Federation of Trade Unions.

As a further step in its war on communism, the AFL Executive Council urged the Senate to ratify the North Atlantic Pact "with all possible speed."

William Green, AFL president, said the council members felt approval of the pact was necessary to maintain and preserve peace and to make the United Nations a success."

At the opening session of its spring meeting, the Executive Council formally decided to join with the CIO, the British Trades Union Congress and other unions in a program of free of government dominion in many other countries to the new world federation.

Since the CIO recently broke off relations with the Communist-dominated WFTU, this action implies that it and they did not hesitate to enter the new organization without the CIO.

It was reported by Mr. Green that the CIO had already taken the way for an understanding by agreeing to join the new federation in the joint participation in the new organization and in the method of seeking to withdraw exclusive representation of a governmental agency in organization from the AFL.

The AFL Council likewise blocked efforts by the CIO to win equal status with the AFL in the work of a representative of United States workers in the International Labor Office, a United Nations affiliate.

Mr. Green said the CIO had agreed in negotiations that it would not use the ILO as a forum for attacks on the AFL in the ILO.

The labor organizations will participate in the new world labor body on the basis of their per capita membership.

Mr. Green said free trade unions from every part of the world would be invited to participate in the new organization's conference, that it would exceed the WFTU in size.

A provisional committee to set up the new organization will be formed at the London meeting, he added, on May 26, Mr. Green said.

The executive board of the federation's call for approval of the North Atlantic Pact, Mr. Green said, that it fell it was a "defensive" measure and that the United States was "committed" to it on nations that would seek to attack other nations in Europe."

Green Names Six Advisers to ILO

Washington, D. C.—In a letter to Secretary of Labor Tobin, AFL President William Green nominated six technical advisers, employers and advisers and consultants at the forthcoming conference of the International Labor Organization beginning June 6 at Geneva, Switzerland.

The nominees are:

Sargent Meyer, secretary-treasurer, American Federation of Labor; John Edelman, secretary-treasurer, International Association of Fire Fighters; William L. McFeeley, director, Building Service Employes International Union; Harry C. Bates, president, International Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers; Paul R. Dutton, president, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada; and Phil E. Ziegler, secretary-treasurer, Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks.

HEALTH INSURANCE GAINS WON BY UAW, AFL LOCAL

Toledo, O.—Local 787 affiliated with the United Automobile Workers of America, AFL, has won a far-reaching throng of the organization's local unions in securing top notch health and accident insurance protection for its members at no cost to themselves, in negotiations with the Haughton Elevator Co. was regarded as one of the most farsighted bargaining committees.

Under the plan, noncorporational accidents or sickness will entitle employees to a weekly benefit of $25.50 for a full year. In the event of sickness or accident, the benefits may be between this amount and that provided by the state unemployment compensation law, he said.

In addition, the policy includes a $5,000 life insurance clause and a $5,000 accidental death and dismemberment feature. Hospitalization at $6 a day for 90 days is provided as is an extra $80 for miscellaneous hospital expenses. Surgical fees up to $225, doctor calls either at the home or hospital, and X-ray and laboratory fees are all provided for in this liberal policy. Dependent coverage is extremely worthwhile, with hospital expenses, surgical fees, X-ray and laboratory fees, etc., available. Provisions for maternity cases, obstetric fees, and poliomyelitis are contained in both the insured and dependent policies.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

Appeasement of Russia Would be Fatal, AFL Warns Foreign Ministers' Parley

Cleveland.—The American Federation of Labor solemnly warned against any appeasement of Soviet Russia at the forthcoming meeting of the Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers in Paris.

After a painstaking canvass of international developments and the lifting of the Berlin blockade, the AFL's International Labor Relations Committee issued the following statement:

"The fate of Germany and of all Europe and mankind will hang in the balance at the Paris meeting of the Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers. If our country, Britain and France will continue the unswerving determination dramatized by the Berlin airlift, then the world will go forward on the road to peace. But if we make the slightest reversion to appeasement, then the door to Russian domination of Germany and the entire continent will be wide open. Then the Russian aggressory will gain through negotiation what they failed to get through compulsion. They will then be able to gain through infiltration what they could not snatch through starvation, blockade or no blockade, the central and overriding aim of the USSR in Europe continues to be to unify Germany along Communistic totalitarian lines and to absorb her as another satellite into the Russian orbit. The Soviets have severely altered their tactics but not their goal. Here is a gravedanger to the freedom and peace of the world, for today Germany can be a menace to peace and progress only if she becomes a Soviet satellite.

"But here is also a great opportunity for our country and the other democracies. It is now more than 4 years since V-E Day. The time has come to sign a just treaty of peace with the German people and to draw them into the community of free nations dedicated to reconstruction, democracy, and international harmony. We, therefore, call for the unity of the democratic powers at the forthcoming Council of Foreign Ministers on the basis of the following program:

"1. Government in Germany by the right of conquest should be abolished and completely replaced with a government by right of the consent and will of the German people themselves—with full authority in its foreign as well as domestic relations. Towards hastening the achievement of this end, the newly-established and democratically elected local government of western Germany should be invited to Paris to participate in the negotiations and conferences affecting the future of their nation.

"2. The Council of Foreign Ministers and the representati ves of Germany drawn into the work of this body shall function as a preparatory commission charged with the task of drawing up a definitive treaty of peace. But the said treaty must be subject to final amendment or approval by the United Nations. The UN shall constitute itself as a general peace conference to which the majority vote upon this treaty and a series of other questions vitally affecting world peace.

"3. Until the adoption of such a treaty by the UN at all further dismantling of German industrial plants and all further seizure of property and machinery under the guise of collecting reparations shall be discontinued. Only a just overall settlement with Germany can deal soundly with these problems. To continue the reckless industrial leveling of Germany and the wanton exploitation of her shrunken resources is not only a thoroughly unwarranted and heavy burden on the American people but is tantamount to turning Germany into a hopeless slum in the very heart of Europe—a grave menace to the welfare of the continent and to peace of the world.

"4. To demonstrate to the German people and the whole world our desire to see genuine German national unity, America and her democratic allies should propose that the Council of Foreign Ministers adopt the following measures:

"a. The boundary line of eastern Germany now maintained by force of arms shall be reexamined and revised. The definitive boundaries of the independent and sovereign German republic should be settled by the UN in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

"b. In order to end the crisis in Germany as a threat to world peace, let Russia return all the kidnapped German workers and technicians to their homes and release all prisoners of war as well as the anti-Nazi political opponents whom they have placed in concentration camps. All para-military bodies and concentration camps in Germany should be abolished as relics of Nazi terror and savagery. All civil liberties and the unrestricted rights of association, freedom of press and organization into political parties and free trade unions shall be completely restored in whatever section of Germany they have been hitherto denied.

"c. Under no circumstances should we again accept the vague and dangerous generalities of Yalta as to reparations. Under no conditions should we fall into another trap like that of Potsdam for a German national unity government. No consideration whatever should be made to the notion that the merger or coalescence of the eastern zone, as it is at present, with western government would aid German national unity. On the contrary, such concessions would be as fatal to German sovereignty as was the payment of the Danegeld for merging the puppet Lublin outfit with the Polish Government-in-Exile to the national independence of Poland.

"d. The UN should be called upon to appoint a commission or representative commission — inclusive of Germans—to supervise the holding of democratic elections throughout Germany for the purpose of forming a definite unified German national authority.

"e. Until and unless these conditions are fully complied with, the armed forces of the United States and other western powers should remain in adequate strength for the purpose of protecting the German people and western Europe against totalitarian Communist encroachments and aggression.

"In the meantime, the American national government, the status of foreign troops remaining in Germany shall be regulated by a treaty between all the sovereign parties—i.e., Germany and the western democracies.

"5. Until such time as the other issues of the German problem are settled, the Four Powers should agree to recognize the only legitimate functioning government of Berlin—the city administration democratically elected on Dec. 5, 1948.

"6. The U. S. should reassure the German people and all Europe that America does not seek the support of any country American institutions, economic policies, and our system of life. We must reaffirm forcefully that our sole aim is the defense of the democratic forces of the world against aggression, for property, human liberty, and the promotion of world prosperity and security.

"7. In this spirit, American and its democratic associates call upon the Russian government to demonstrate most effectively its good will and desire for peace by withdrawing from the dissolution of the Cominform and the WFTU which have unleashed the fifth columns and subversive agencies in other countries.

"Humanity urgently needs genuine assurance that the specter of war, the threat of aggression and the horrors of war unmitigated by high-sounding phrases. Every sincere move for peace by the Soviet government will be welcomed and encouraged. But every sinister maneuver of fraudulent move should be repuffed and rejected. Mankind must find its peace and not sold down the river—neither down the Rhine nor the Yangtze."

Funeral of Labor Martyr

Mourning crowds of workers throng New York streets in funeral procession of the late William Lurye, special organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who was stabbed to death by three unidentified thugs while on union organizing mission.

When Editors Sell Out It's Not News, So Press Plays Down Illinois Scandal

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for the AFL News Service

New York.—American press agencies and newspapers were rapped by Harry Hollenbeck, radio-television news analyst and commentator on his weekly program "CBS Views the Press," for suppression of a scandal story involving 31 Illinois editors and the defeated Republican governor, Dwight Green.

"The story and the way it was treated by the press," said Hollenbeck, a veteran newspaperman and foreign correspondent, "contributes to the purpose of forming a definite unified German national authority.

"c. Until and unless these conditions are fully complied with, the armed forces of the United States and other western powers should remain in adequate strength for the purpose of protecting the German people and western Europe against totalitarian Communist encroachments and aggression.

"In the meantime, the American national government, the status of foreign troops remaining in Germany shall be regulated by a treaty between all the sovereign parties—i.e., Germany and the western democracies.

"5. Until such time as the other issues of the German problem are settled, the Four Powers should agree to recognize the only legitimate functioning government of Berlin—the city administration democratically elected on Dec. 5, 1948.

"6. The U. S. should reassure the German people and all Europe that America does not seek the support of any country American institutions, economic policies, and our system of life. We must reaffirm forcefully that our sole aim is the defense of the democratic forces of the world against aggression, for property, human liberty, and the promotion of world prosperity and security.

"7. In this spirit, American and its democratic associates call upon the Russian government to demonstrate most effectively its good will and desire for peace by withdrawing from the dissolution of the Cominform and the WFTU which have unleashed the fifth columns and subversive agencies in other countries.

"Humanity urgently needs genuine assurance that the specter of war, the threat of aggression and the horrors of war unmitigated by high-sounding phrases. Every sincere move for peace by the Soviet government will be welcomed and encouraged. But every sinister maneuver of fraudulent move should be repuffed and rejected. Mankind must find its peace and not sold down the river—neither down the Rhine nor the Yangtze."

Model Pension Program Is Awarded To Chicago Transportation Employes

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—A pension plan which may become a model for the local transportation industry was ordered by an arbitration board for 22,000 AFL union members employed by the Chicago Transit Authority.

Employes are represented by two local unions of the Amalgamated Association of Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes. Members, 241 operated the Chicago street cars and feeder buses of the surface lines system. Division 308 has jurisdiction over employes of the elevated lines.

The employer is a municipally-owned authority which recently purchased the properties of the Chicago Surface Lines and the Chicago Rapid Transit Co., under which the local transportation system had been managed.

Although pension plans have been in operation for many years on both street and elevated trains service, the arbitration award will increase and strengthen benefits to retiring employes, many of whom have been on job 35 or 40 years or more.

As of June 1, workers with 30 years' service or more who choose to retire at 65 will be paid a minimum of $75 a month during a 5-year trial period in which the new plan will operate.

Pensions may be much higher than the minimum, however, graduated according to length of service and annual earnings at retirement. A retiring worker is guaranteed a yearly sum equal to 1.5 percent of last annual earnings multiplied by years of service.

For instance, an employe earning $250 a month, or $3,000 a year, who retires at 65 after 30 years of service would receive a pension of $1,350 a year, or $112 a month.

A flat increase of $10 a month was granted to workers who already had retired. Under the old program, a $60 monthly pension was provided.

The new arrangement provides the transit authority will contribute 6 percent of payroll into the pension fund and employes 3 per cent for the first year. In the second year, the contributions go up to 4 percent for the CTA and remain at 3 percent for the workers. In the third year, the CTA will contribute 5 percent and the employes 2½ percent.

Two AFL Circuit Court of Cook County were members of the Chicago arbitration board. Judge William V. Brothers was neutral member and Judge Lyndon Harrington represented the union. Attorney Thomas C. Strachan, Jr., sat in for the CTA.

Strachan, in a dissenting recommendation, said the plan would shift to the CTA the cost of benefits which previously had been shared equally by employer and employe. Judges Brothers and Harrington declared Strachan was in error and that only a fair increase would be made mandatory by the law.

At Judge Brothers' insistence, a finding was written into the arbitration award that increased pension costs should not be used as a basis for increasing fares.

WRECKERS WIN INCREASE

Chicago.—A 10 cent an hour wage increase for approximately 250 members of Local 225, AFL Wreckers and General Laborers Union, will become effective June 1, International Representative Louis Sidney said. The top scale was increased from $1.75 to $1.85.

Apprentice System Boon to Nation, Tobin Tells Big Graduating Class

Oakland, Calif.—Failure to train enough key skilled workers could lead to war with the United States, Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, warned his 850 apprentices, trainees in 17 trade classifications, became full-fledged journeymen.

The occasion was the second annual mass graduation of apprentices from courses operated jointly by labor, management and public vocational school system. California, those in the audience were told, leads the nation in apprenticeship training with the 2 counties of Alameda and Contra Costa, represented in the graduation exercises, have 20 percent of all the apprenticip combs in the entire state.

Secretary Tobin said that the lesson to be drawn from World War II was "that we must learn how to apportion our strength between our armed forces and industry."

"By putting a toolmaker or pattermaker in an infantry regiment," he continued, "we might cost the lives of as many as that entire regiment for lack of production from the tools or patterns such as crafts-men could make."

Mr. Tobin asserted that the skilled workers he had in mind could not be turned out on an emergency basis, and that "the training of apprentices for the skilled trade is just as important as the training of our military forces."

Both Gov. Earl Warren and John F. Shelley, president of the California Federation of Labor, hailed the success of the state's apprenticeship program. Mr. Shelley, while in the legislature was author of the Shelley-Maloney apprenticeship act of 1939, which laid the foundation for the system.

Mr. Shelley commented that the presence of Secretary Tobin and Gov. Warren at the graduation "is proof of the dignity and essentiality of the apprenticeship job, whether it be manual or nonmanual."

CARPENTERS GET RAISE

Philadelphia.—A 4-day strike of more than 7,000 carpenters in the Philadelphia area ended in agreement on a wage increase of 15 cents an hour.

Representatives of the Metropolitan District Council of Carpenters (AFL), meeting with officers of the General Building Contractors Association in the latter's headquarters, agreed to send their men back to work at the usual starting time at an hourly rate of $2.40.

AFL Pledges All-Out Drive To Elect Liberals in 1950

Exhibits Delight Throngs At Union Industries Show

Cleveland.—AFL President William Green led a host of top AFL and public officials who participated in the opening of the 1949 Union Industries Show here heralded far and wide as the most practical demonstation of labor-management teamwork in the world.

In colorful ceremonies here, Mr. Green put the button spanning the doors of the public auditorium to open officially the largest spectacle staged thus far by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department in cooperation with manufacturers of union-label products and suppliers of union services.

Mr. Green hailed the show as an "effective answer to the challenge of communism," in a brief address delivered to the throngs which waited to enter the corridors of the huge exhibit hall.

Participating with Mr. Green were Mayor Thomas A. Burke of Cleveland, who called the show "one of the greatest public exhibits ever held in Cleveland," and I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, AFL, and director of the show. Their remarks were carried to additional millions of people over the nation-wide network of the Mutual Broadcasting Co.

Within a matter of hours after the opening of the show, crowds estimated at nearly 30,000 persons worked their way past the 200 or more exhibits which covered every inch of the exhibit hall's 90,000 square feet of display space distributed over 2 floors. The aisles in the auditorium were constantly jammed as they passed to view the many examples of industrial products manufactured by skilled union workers.

Stressing the importance of the show, Mr. Green said that its purpose is to "emphasize to the American people that organized labor is willing to cooperate with any group of employers who will share in the workers fairly." "We in the American Federation of Labor," he said, "have determined that our free enterprise system shall survive in America and that freedom and democracy shall not be obliterated by force from the face of the earth."

Mr. Ornburn emphasized the value of the exposition in promoting good relations in the industrial field. He said:

"Through this unique enterprise, employers and employers form a new partnership which means industrial peace and increased production at wages which mean increased buying power to buy back the flood of goods and services available. Thus, the Union Industries Show becomes the very heart of prosperity."

Eye-catching exhibits ranged from a national contest among apprentice bricklayers for a $500 prize for the best quality work produced. To a parade of models exhibiting the newest in fashions manufactured by members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Neatly-turned pottery, sparkling glassware, jewelry, leather goods and the myriad products of a giant bazaar illustrated the excellence of "union-made" products. For the first time outside of a factory the process of insulating copper wire with an extruded plastic cover was demonstrated by workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers employed by the Lumalloy Corporation.

As an example of union services, the AFL Laundry Workers Union set up and operated a complete model laundry.

In another section of the hall white-clad bakery workers turned out cakes and pastries by the thousands which were sampled eagerly by the throngs. Cakes were given away every 15 minutes to holders of lucky number tickets distributed to the spectators.

This practice of handing out samples and souvenirs was followed by nearly every exhibitor. Big prizes for the best exhibit went to that of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union would hand out 50,000 pounds of meat cut by their members who operated a butcher shop upon the floor.

Miniature railroads, with complete control systems, gadgets of every conceivable kind caught the attention of the public. Outside the hall, there operated a complete model of the navy's V-2 rocket and guided missiles vied with the other exhibits for careful examination by the public.

Executive Council Hits Failure of Congress To Repeal T-H Act

Cleveland.—The American Federation of Labor pledged itself to concentrate all its political power, through Labor's League for Political Education, on the election of a large majority of liberals to Congress in 1950, regardless of party affiliations.

Plainly disappointed by the failure of the 81st Congress thus far to enact repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and to adopt other progressive measures in labor's platform, the League's Administrative Committee blamed the recent record on the coalition of reactionary Democrats and Republicans. The committee's report warned that this coalition may cause a continuing stalemate unless its members are defeated for reelection follow.

"The first test votes in the House of Representatives on the issue of Taft-Hartley repeal have provided ominous signs for labor with a clear indication of the task we must undertake in the 1950 election campaign.

"Apparently, the die-hard reactionaries of both parties in Congress who recently received the mandate of the American people as expressed by their vote.

"Thus, we are faced with the fact that our efforts in the 1948 campaign accomplished only part of our victory and that we must make certain to complete the job in 1950 if we hope to gain the objectives of a truly progressive government in America.

"The issue for repeal of the Taft Hartley Act before adjournment of the present session, and enacts a new labor-management relations law satisfactory to labor, the workers of this country can not feel safe and secure while reactionary forces are able to muster such strength in Congress as was manifested in the roll-call vote on the Wood bill in the House of Representatives a few weeks ago.

"Even a cursory analysis of the composition of Congress today reveals the fact that instead of a 2-party system we have in operation a tug-of-war between reactionary forces both parties on one side and liberals from both parties on the other. On many vital issues the pulling and hauling between these contending forces has resulted in a stalemate. To achieve the goals taken by Congress after 4 months of this session on legislation affecting the welfare of the American people.

"It becomes clear, therefore, that a sizeable majority in the Democratic party in the 81st Congress offers lukewarm support to labor's program, that the heavy majority the Republicans bring to the fight is composed of organized labor and the country as a whole is a group of reactionaries and liberals in Congress, regardless of their party affiliations.

"To this end Labor's league for Political Education will dedicate its efforts in the 1950 campaign. From the reports submitted to the Administrative committee at today's meeting, it is clearly evident that we will be able to better perform our duty on our work organizationally and financially than in the 1948 campaign. We will soon be in a position to endorse voters on a district basis and every Congressional district in the country. Our efforts are assured financial support from the funds of the 8,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor.

"Meanwhile, the league is going ahead with valuable and effective educational and informational work through radio broadcasts and through the publication of a new weekly newspaper, the League Reporter."

AFL Demand For Purge of Communists Agreed to by Canadian Labor Congress

Cleveland. Basic steps to curb Communist influence in the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress were agreed upon here by representatives of the Canadian group and the executive council of the American Federation of Labor.

Leaders of both organizations expressed confidence after the day-long meeting that the steps taken will serve to effect a peaceful settlement of the 2-year-old Communist domination of the administration of the Canadian central body and to ward off any split between it and the AFL.

The executive committee of the Canadian group will meet in Ottawa soon to consider the program worked out here by Canadian labor leaders. Officers of the organization, said he was "well pleased" with the results of the discussion of measures designed to preserve the unity of Canadian labor and to help keep its membership united and maintain ties to the AFL.

Similar satisfaction with the results of today's meeting was expressed by George M. Harrison, president of the International Ladies and Garment Workers' Union, whose Canadian locals have been especially active in the fight to eliminate Communists from positions of influence in the Trades and Labor Congress.

William Green, president of the AFL, stressed that the executive council had not attempted to "dictate" any course of action that would interfere with the autonomy of the Canadian body. He said the federation would "continue to cooperate as it has today would "serve to solve our problems and bring about a cooperative relationship."

Green and Mr. Benegugh declined to go into detail on what took place at the executive council meeting.

Leaders of the Canadian group indicated they will approve steps to change their constitution in a manner intended to give greater autonomy under the greater voting power in the annual conventions to the Trades and Labor Congress.

The AFL indicated its belief that the Seafarers International Union, an AFL affiliate, should be admitted to the Trades and Labor Congress in place of the left-wing Canadian Seamen's Union.

The Canadian representatives did not agree to this, but AFL leaders said they felt the Canadian Seamen's Union was "failing apart" so rapidly that it had ceased to be an important element in the situation.

"Our one big interest in the Canadian situation has been the question of Communist influence," a high AFL leader said. "We feel real progress is being made toward that end and we do not expect it will stop there. The problem has been completely solved."

In another development a committee representing the Navy Department conferred with officials of the AFL Executive Council that the federation favored maintenance of a strong navy as part of a rounded program of national defense.

"We are content on to press for adequate appropriations to build up the existing effective navy," Mr. Green declared.

AFL Seafarers Open Anti-Red Drive To Clean Up All Great Lakes Shipping

Detroit.—More than 50 Great Lakes vessels were targets as the Seafarers International Union, AFL, launched a drive to oust Communists from lake shipping crews.

The union alerted all allied AFL unions at docks on Great Lakes waterways to deny cargo service to 3 Canadian shipping concerns whose vessels were manned partially by members of the Canadian Seaman's Union.

SIU officials charged members of the CSU with Communist sympathies, terming them "a threat to the great industries supplied by lake shipping."

Affected by the move were 24 ships and 2 barges of the Paterson Steamships, Ltd., of Fort William, Ont.; 20 ships and 6 barges of the Upper Lakes & St. Lawrence Company, and 6 ships and 6 barges of the Quebec & Ontario Transport Company, and half a dozen smaller concerns.

Meanwhile, at Milwaukee, members of Local 815, Longshoremen's Union, AFL, refused to unload any ships that might have Communists in their crews.

The order was issued by John Brask, local president, in support of the Seafarers International Union.

SEN. DOUGLAS ASKS CONGRESS TO ADOPT FEDERAL FEPC LAW

Washington, D. C.—While praising the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Rhode Island, which have already passed fair employment practices laws, Senator Paul H. Douglas (D.-Ill.) called for the passage federal law to end racial and religious discrimination in employment in a statement before the subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee.

"There is need for federal action because the problem is in part a national one," Senator Douglas said. "Job discrimination against Negroes is directly weakening national unity and is giving to the Communist opponents of our democracy a propaganda weapon they are using amongst the darker skinned peoples of the world."